

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A smart card comprising:
processing and memory circuitry;
a primary battery disposed in said smart card for providing power to said processing and memory circuitry; and
a secondary battery disposed in said smart card for providing power to said processing and memory circuitry.
2. The smart card of claim 1, wherein said primary battery is non-rechargeable.
3. The smart card of claim 2, wherein said primary battery is a lithium battery.
4. The smart card of claim 1, wherein:
said processing and memory circuitry comprises an interface for electrically connecting said smart card to a host device, said interface comprising a power line for receiving power from said host device;
said secondary battery is a rechargeable battery; and
said smart card further comprises recharging circuitry for recharging said secondary battery with power from said host device.
5. The smart card of claim 1, further comprising a first diode preventing discharge of said secondary battery into said primary battery.
6. The smart card of claim 1, further comprising a second diode preventing discharge of said primary battery into said secondary battery.
7. The smart card of claim 1, further comprising access control data for a cable television system stored in said processing and memory circuitry.

8. A method of providing power to processing and memory circuitry of a smart card said method comprising:

providing power to said processing and memory circuitry with a primary non-rechargeable battery disposed in said smart card; and

providing a secondary rechargeable battery disposed in said smart card that is charged when said smart card is installed in a host device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said primary battery is a lithium battery.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

installing said smart card in a host device;

electrically connecting said smart card to said host device and providing power to said smart card from said host device; and

charging said secondary battery with power from said host device.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing power to said processing and memory circuitry with said secondary battery when said smart card is removed from said host device.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

charging said secondary battery prior to installation of said smart card in a host device; and

powering said processing and memory circuitry with said secondary battery after depletion of said primary battery.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising preventing discharge of said secondary battery into said primary battery.

14. The method of claim 8, further comprising preventing discharge of said primary battery into said secondary battery.

15. The method of claim 8, further comprising storing access control data for a cable television system in said processing and memory circuitry of said smart card.

16. A system for providing power to processing and memory circuitry of a smart card said method comprising:

primary non-rechargeable power means for providing power to said processing and memory circuitry, said primary means being disposed in said smart card; and

secondary rechargeable power means, also disposed in said smart card, wherein said secondary power means are charged when said smart card is installed in a host device.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

means for electrically connecting said smart card to said host device and providing power to said smart card from said host device; and

means for charging said secondary power means with power from said host device.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising means for providing power to said processing and memory circuitry with said secondary power means when said smart card is removed from said host device.

19. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

means for charging said secondary power means prior to installation of said smart card in a host device; and

means for powering said processing and memory circuitry with said secondary power means after depletion of said primary power means.